

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03753 300405Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4335

USUN NY IMMEDIATE 827

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: GVN MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM ON REFUGEE CRISIS

1. GVN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, VUONG VAN BAC, EVENING OF MARCH 29 SENT FOLLOWING MESSAGE ON CRITICAL REFUGEE SITUATION IN SVN TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. GVN MISSION IN NEW YORK INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY. MFA ADVISES US THERE IS NOT NOW ANY PLAN TO MAKE MESSAGE PUBLIC.

2. BEGIN TEXT. MR SECRETARY GENERAL, I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION ON THE TRAGIC PLIGHT OF OVER ONE MILLION SOUTH VIETNAMESE, MOST OF THEM

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE, WHO HAVE ABANDONED THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF THE RECENT MILITARY OFFENSIVE, TO SEEK REFUGE IN THE ALREADY

CROWDED COASTAL CITIES OF DANANG, TUY HOA AND NHA TRANG.

3. THOSE WAR VICTIMS WHO HAVE LOST EVERYTHING AND GONE THROUGH THE HORROR OF A LONG AND PERILOUS JOURNEY NOW LIVE IN MISERY AND ANXIETY. THEY ARE IN DIRE NEED OF SHELTER, CLOTHING, MEDICAL CARE, FOOD, AND TRANSPORTATION TO SAFER AREAS.

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4. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT

TO ALLEVIATE THEIR SUFFERING AND PROVIDE FOR THEM IMMEDIATE NEEDS. HOWEVER, THE MAGNITUDE AND URGENCY OF THE REQUIREMENT ARE SUCH THAT NO SINGLE GOVERNMENT CAN COPE WITH THE SITUATION.

5. THEREFORE, I REQUEST THAT YOU ISSUE AN APPEAL TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AND HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO EXTEND URGENT ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY TO HAVE THE REFUGEES MOVED OUT OF THE COMBAT ZONES.

6. IN YOUR APPEAL MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU CALL ON ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO COOPERATE FULLY IN ENSURING THAT THE REFUGEES MAY BE REMOVED IN SAFETY AND WITHOUT FURTHER SUFFERINGS.

7. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR APPEAL WILL ELICIT A PROMPT AND GENEROUS RESPONSE FROM THE WORLD COMMUNITY, AS THIS TRAGIC MASS EXODUS HAS ALREADY STIRRED THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY.

8. ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND WARMEST REGARDS. SINCERELY, VUONG VAN BAC, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAIGON END TEXT.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE GENEVA
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